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**DAIRY PREPOTENCY.**

POINTS TO CONSIDER IN THE SELECTION OF BULLS.

**Desirable Animals Usually Possess High Tempers—Work as a Factor in Keeping Bulls Tractable—Training on Tread Power.**

This is a very important and difficult question. The best judges feel, more or less, that they are making a leap into the dark, says Hoard's Dairyman. The object, of course, is to buy the bull that will make a sire of dairy cows of large capacity. (1) We want him to possess a rich heredity of dairy performance back of him. That we can determine easily if records have been kept of the productions of a long line of mothers. (2) We want him to have come from a long line of sires that have excelled in producing high record cows. That, too, can be determined by the records. (3) We want him to possess individual merit as shown in his conformity to well defined dairy points. All that can be determined by thorough examination by a good judge.

But, having settled the point of heredity or pedigree and individual conformation which can be easily done, how are we to know that he will breed strongly and prepotently in the direction we wish him to? Here is the dark place in the road.

Up to the publication of the new scale of points by the American Guernsey Cattle Club there had been no attempt to crystallize thought, experience and judgment on this important point in the judging of bulls at fairs and in their selection as breeding animals. The committee of the Guernsey club who devised the new scale have the following to say on this question of prepotency in their explanatory notes:

In the scale for bulls, for the first time, we believe, in the history of dairy breeds, this point is introduced. The reason we have included it is that prepotency is the chief consideration in the selection of all male breeding animals. The pedigree and conformation are often all that can be desired, but because the bull is lacking in prepotent breeding power he is an expensive failure. This quality is, in a sense, difficult to perceive or describe, but we know certain animals have it in high degree, and others fall off completely. It is fairly well indicated by vigor of appearance, resolute bearing and abundant nervous energy. We would distinguish this from an ugly disposition.

A bull is ugly by the way he is handled rather than by his breeding. What we want is strong, impressive blood. A dull, sluggish spirit and action we consider indicative of a lack of true dairy prepotency.

Every breeder of dairy cattle uses the word "prepotency." He is looking for prepotent bulls, but has he ever undertaken to determine what are the indications or outward signs of this quality?

The Guernsey committee have gone farther in their effort to define this valuable quality than any other source we know of, but they cannot fully cover the ground in so short a space. In our opinion prepotency is a mental quality.

We can see it in certain families of men and horses very plainly. In almost every instance that we have noted where an ancestor has impressed powerfully his or her progeny, either in good or bad qualities, such ancestor has possessed a strong will and self assertion—in other words, a strong disposition to conquer. These characteristics indicate a large supply of nervous energy, nerve power, etc. Such animals can easily be made ugly if they are handled unwisely. Therefore we believe a desirable bull should possess a high temper. It would be interesting to search back and see whether or not the great masters of blood in the various dairy breeds were bulls of high temper. We take it as a favorable sign of prepotency in a bull, provided there is good pedigree back of him, if he shows a disposition to challenge the authority that is over him, is active, resolute and of a strong, masterful disposition. Of course such a bull needs to be well and carefully handled. Avoid conflict with him as much as possible.

There is nothing better on earth to make such a bull tractable than a tread power, in which he can be exercised a couple of hours each day. Every breeder of dairy cattle will do well

to make a bull furnish power to separate the cream, and he should be trained in this from the time he is a yearling. Such training will add value to the bull in the mind of every discerning purchaser.

**Reminiscence.**

When we played shinney, long ago,  
Our clothing did not fret us,  
We wore no coats of sunset glow;  
Our mothers would not let us,  
Oh, we were coltish in our glee;  
We loved to prance and whinny!  
We asked no "niblick" and no "tee"  
When we were playing shinney.

Oh, where are those companions now—  
The thin boy we called "Fatty";  
The boy ill clad, with griny law;  
The boy so neat and pretty;  
The boy who was so very fat,  
His comrade named him "Shinny";  
There is no friendship here like that  
We knew while playing shinney.

Purchase one day a club I'll take  
And set the golf ball flying,  
At least an effort I may make;  
There's naught, you know, like trying,  
But I shall miss those boyish friends,  
So frolic faced and griny;  
No modern game can make amends  
For those lost hours of shinney.  
—Washington Star.

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